



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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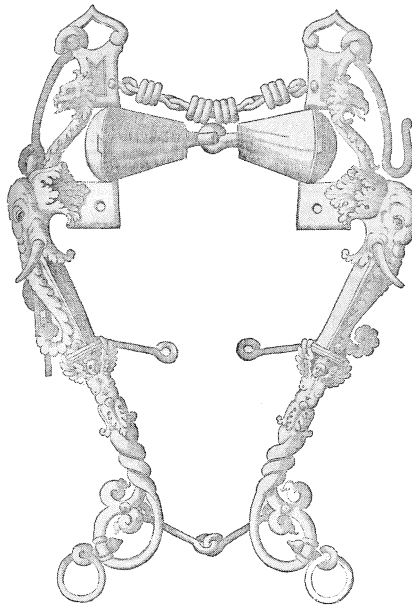
SPRING 2003

Doctoral Dissertation Unfolds at NSL

Elizabeth Tobey, a doctoral student in Art History at the University of Maryland, is currently researching two projects using the collections of the National Sporting Library.

"I have found a treasure trove of material within driving distance of where I live – books that I might otherwise have to travel to Europe to see," says Tobey. "I am especially grateful to those who so generously established and support this wonderful and unique collection."

Central to her research is the Library's collection of 16th- and early 17th-century Italian books on horses and horsemanship. Many of these books are extremely rare and not commonly found in libraries



Elaborate bit from Federico Grisone's *Gli Ordini Cavalcare* (1550).

outside of Europe. Tobey has transcribed and translated some passages into English.

Tobey's primary research project is the history of the *palio* in Renaissance Italy. Her topic grew out of her master's thesis on the frescoed portraits of racehorses in Mantua's Palazzo Te. The *palio* was a type of horserace that ran in cities as part of saints' days and religious festivals.

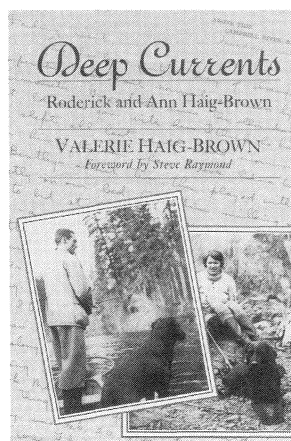
Today, the *palio* tradition continues, in muted form, in such cities as Siena and Ferrara. The word *palio* derives from the name of the banner awarded to the owners of the winning horse. Cities invested considerable expense in commission-

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Angling Collection Grows Through McBean Grant

The NSL expanded its angling collection this spring with 79 important books of various editions of works first published from the 1920s to the present. A 2002 grant from the McBean Family Foundation of San Mateo, California, enabled the Library to purchase the volumes.

"The new books run the full gamut of fresh and salt water fly-fishing, from technical instructions on fly-tying and casting, to fish habitat and behavior, to guidebooks de-



scribing the best places to fish," says Librarian Robert Weber.

He carefully explored the NSL's needs for improving the collection and contacted angling book collectors and area fly-fishermen. Several recommended books by Lefty Kreh, in particular a series titled *Lefty's Little Library of Fly-Fishing*. Weber added 15 volumes of the small and authoritative fly-fishing books to the NSL's collection.

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ing *palio* banners and other works of art used in the festivities. Since the racehorses belonged to various noble families such as the Medici of Florence and the Gonzaga of Mantua, the *palio* became more than just a horse race, but also a political spectacle of power.

Tobey has looked at a number of primary sources in the Library's collection for contemporary perspectives on the *palio* and the horses that competed in the races. Passages in Pasquale Caracciolo's encyclopedic book on the horse, *La Gloria del Cavallo* [The Glory of the Horse] (1566) describe the qualities of the North African Barb and Turkish horses that commonly served as *palio* racers. These horses came from the same blood from which the modern Thoroughbred descends. Tobey also recently discovered a chapter in M. Claudio Corte's *Il Cavallerizzo* [The Riding Master] (1562) that gives detailed instructions on how to exercise, train, and feed *palio* horses.

In addition to her *palio* research, Tobey is preparing a lecture on Italian bits for the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, to be held in Pittsburgh in October. The proliferation of bit designs reflects the growth of the practice of classical dressage, which began in Italy with Federico Grisone's founding of a riding school in Naples.

The NSL owns several early editions of Grisone's *Gli Ordini Cavalcare* [The Principles of Riding], first published in 1550. Grisone's text and other treatises on horses and riding include illustrations of various kinds of curb bits, with two books, Giovanni Battista Ferraro's *Cavallo Frenato* [The Bridled Horse] (1602) and Alessandro Massari Malatesta's *Della ragione e modi d'imbrigliar cavalli* [On the Reason and Ways to Bridle Horses] (1613)



Elizabeth Tobey

devoted entirely to the topic of bits. Illustrations show examples of elaborately embellished bits that incorporate in their decoration various motifs, including harpies, elephants' heads, and Imperial eagles.

"Riding masters could employ particular styles of bits, such as the cannon, cat's paw, and *Ginetta* (named after the Spanish Jennets, or Andalusian, horses which were popular riding horses at the time) to correct horses' conformational or behavioral flaws," explains Tobey. "Ferraro illustrates some bits that were custom designed for specific individual horses. Other bits, such as the Pignatella or Fiasco, were named for the riding masters who

invented them, and words labeling the various parts of the bit often differed by region. Ferraro's treatise illustrates some non-Italian bits, including Turkish ones from the Ottoman Empire.

"Since Italy actively imported horses from Islamic territories in Turkey and North Africa, it is conceivable that they were also influenced by the horse culture and equipment in these areas of the world," she says.

Tobey plans to travel to New York later this spring to look at examples of actual Italian bits in the Arms and Armor Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also looking forward to continuing her research at the National Sporting Library, where she can further investigate its rare collection of early Italian equestrian texts.

"I am an ardent fan of Thoroughbred racing, and have visited and photographed several retired champions in Kentucky, including Affirmed, Seattle Slew and Cigar," she says. She is a recreational rider and takes lessons in low-level dressage and equitation at Willowbend Farm in Upper Marlboro, Md.

McBean Grant Expands Angling Collection

Continued from page 1

"Kreh is known as the dean of American fly-fishing," said Douglas Lees, of Warrenton, Va. "And salt water fly-fishing is where he first made his name."

Weber also found a 1991 edition of Eugene Connett's *My Friend the Trout* (originally published in 1961), a collection of reminiscences by the founder of The Derrydale Press.

Other important works include the biography of a beloved angling

author and his wife, *Deep Currents: Roderick and Ann Haig-Brown* (1997), by their daughter Valerie Haig-Brown. The NSL holds 20 titles by Haig-Brown, both fiction and non-fiction.

Other authors represented in the acquisition include Frank Sawyer, Dave Hughes, Ray Bergman, Joe Brooks, Harry Plunket Greene, Charles Meck and Gary Borger.

The Upperville Colt & Horse Show: The First 150 Years At the National Sporting Library

The National Sporting Library is featuring a special exhibition of historic trophies, ribbons, photographs, show programs and scrapbooks tracing the history of the Upperville Colt & Horse Show.

The Upperville Colt & Horse Show: The First 150 Years will run through June 27.

On display is an original and spectacular Tiffany & Co. trophy awarded at the first show in 1853, as well as a newly designed Tiffany & Co. loving cup, which will be awarded on June 8 to the owner of the horse winning the Upperville Jumper Classic for permanent possession.

The 1853 trophy, a hand-hammered and engraved sterling masterpiece, was designed by Tiffany & Co., after Charles Lewis Tiffany is said to have met the horse show's founder, Col. Richard Henry Dulany, on a train to New York. Dulany explained with great enthusiasm that he was organizing the Upperville Union Colt Club show to be held on the grounds of his farm, Grafton. Tiffany offered to provide a silver trophy for only the cost of the silver.

Elisabeth M. Plaskitt has loaned her original cup to the NSL. Her late husband's father, James Marshall Plaskitt obtained the trophy from the 1853 winner, Norman Legg.

The show has been held at Grafton each year since. The name was changed to the Upperville Colt Club after the War Between the States. The show did not run during the war years.

"It is a pleasure to be celebrating the 150th anniversary with an ex-



Elisabeth Plaskitt holds her 1853 original Tiffany & Co. trophy awarded at the first Upperville Union Colt Club show.

hibit in our magnificent new building. I hope the Library will be considered a repository of UCHS material anticipating a 200th anniversary exhibition so that these archives can be available to those who are interested in researching the history of this fine event," said Walta Warren, NSL curator.

The exhibit features numerous items from the Library's collection as well as trophies, ribbons, art, show programs and photographs loaned by UCHS exhibitors and their families.

The two-month exhibition was kicked off by a gala at the Library May 9, hosted by UCHS president George N. Slater and Mrs. Slater. The exquisite new trophy, also designed by Tiffany & Co., was unveiled at that time by Tiffany Vice President Diane Ray Brown.

The Slaters loaned a ledger dating from 1869 to 1904 and begin-

ning with the first meeting following the Civil War: "At a dinner given by Col. Richard H. Dulany for the purpose of reorganizing the Upperville Union Colt Club - which held its meetings annually before the war..." The ledger was the bible of the club and listed the initial 21 rules and regulations of the show, lists of judges, premium awards and other pertinent information. The last entry is 1904.

Elizabeth Courts, a direct Dulany descendant, has loaned an 1859 silver cup inscribed "Upperville Union Club Premium Cup for the best 3 Years old FILLY for Quick Draft."

Also in the exhibit are three large trophies honoring P. S. Gochnauer, secretary and treasurer of the UCHS from 1891-1916, one of which was loaned by Anne S. Coyner.

Mimi Abel Smith, an NSL director, loaned a magnificent trophy won by Hickory Tree Farm which is believed to have been awarded in 1953, the 100th anniversary of UCHS.

From the NSL's collection are news clippings, copies of correspondence and photographs which tell the stories of the horse show over the last 150 years. Magazines from the 19th and 20th centuries include *The Spirit of the Times*, *The Chronicle of the Horse* and *Spur*. Detail is rich, not only about show day, the owners, riders and horses, but also the saga of the show's founding, Civil War history and the state of Virginia's 19th-century saddle-horse breeding (as opposed to racehorses).

Bath County Hounds Open to Chairman's Council

Bath County Hounds, the private pack of George L. Ohrstrom Jr., will open its fixture card to members of the NSL's Chairman's Council beginning with the fall season.

Ohrstrom, chairman of the NSL board, founded the pack in 1992 to hunt over his historic Fassifern Farm in Warm Springs, Va. Melvin Poe, the celebrated former huntsman of Orange County Hunt, hunts the hounds over beautiful country consisting of green valleys and wooded hills with spectacular views. The pristine Jackson River runs right through the farm.

Ohrstrom purchased the 2000-acre farm in the late 1980s when he saw development creeping into Fauquier County, his home and the home of Orange County Hunt. In 1992, he offered his good friend Poe the job of hunting the pack to restore foxhunting to Bath County.

Fassifern was built in 1790 by Col. Charles Cameron on a 4000-



Melvin Poe leads the hounds and field across the Jackson River.

acre tract he bought from Jacob Warwick. The farm was named for Cameron's ancestral home in Scotland. Above the house was the site of Fort Dinwiddie, named for a royal governor of Virginia. The pre-Revolutionary War stockade was the only sanctuary for miles around from periodic Indian raids and was visited by Virginia Militia commander George Washington in 1775.

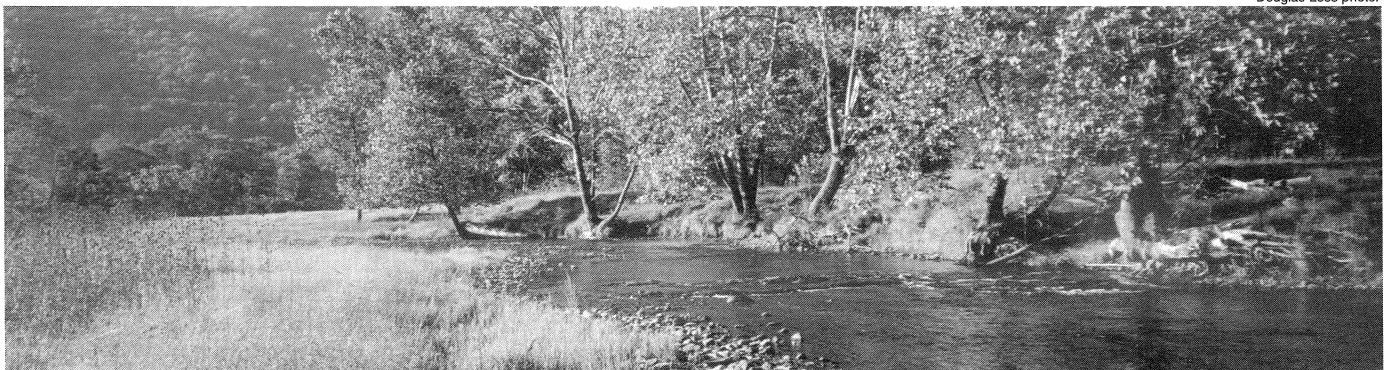
Fassifern remained in the Cameron family until 1877, but in

1901, Tate Sterrett, whose wife was a great-granddaughter of Cameron, purchased the property. The original farmhouse had burned to the ground but was rebuilt by Sterrett.

Foxhunting guests to Fassifern stay at the main farmhouse, comfortably refurbished by Ohrstrom. Guests must bring their own horses which are stabled in a handsome new stone stable or in a cozy converted dairy barn.

Many healthy foxes reside on the farm, offering great sport in the morning. Following lunch, guests may relax in the baths of Warm Springs, hike the trails of Fassifern or cast a line in the Jackson. A mere 10-minutes away, The Homestead resort offers a fly-fishing school, shooting club, golf course, canoe trips and even falconry.

Chairman's Council members may make inquiries and reservations for foxhunting with John Coles at 540-687-6500, ext. 17.



Douglas Less photo.



Henry Hooker Lecture and Book Signing

Henry Hooker signs a copy of his book *Fox, Fin and Feather* (2002) for Jacqueline B. Mars, an NSL director and president of Orange County Hunt (Va.). Hooker is master of Hillsboro Hounds (Tenn.). The lecture and book signing were in the NSL's Founders' Room on May 15.



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National Sporting Library
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Elections to the NSL Board

The National Sporting Library Board of Directors elected Edward P. Evans as vice chair, and Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom and Patricia B. Manigault as members of the board on April 11.

Evans, an NSL board member since 1999, is the former CEO of Macmillan, Inc. He breeds and races Thoroughbreds from his Spring Hill Farm in Casanova, Va., and is one of the most successful Thoroughbred owners and breeders in America. He has campaigned numerous graded-stakes winners including Raging Fever, a full sister to the successful sire Stormin Fever. Raging Fever, a five-year-old mare, won the Grade-3 Bed of Roses Breeders' Cup at Aquaduct in April. Halo Homewrecker, a three-year-old colt, has won three for three, the most recent the G-3 Bay Shore Stakes at Aquaduct. Evans was the third leading owner on the New York Racing Association circuit in 2000 and 2001.

Ohrstrom, of The Plains, is a member of the NSL Chairman's Council and a dynamic supporter of the Library. She hunts with Orange County Hunt and Bath County Hounds. Ohrstrom is a prize-winning carriage driver with a matched pair of Hackney ponies. In 2000, she and her team won the championship at the Warrenton Horse Show in



Edward P. Evans and friends.

August. Last fall, they won the Concours d'Elegance at Piedmont Driving Club's annual show for the best turnout in her George IV phaeton. Ohrstrom is also on the boards of the Brandywine Conservancy and the League of Conservation Voters.

Manigault, of Charleston, S.C., is also a member of the NSL's Chairman's Council. She is a director of the Peregrine Fund and has served on the board of directors of The National Audubon Society, the Gibbes Museum of Art and the Low Country Open Land Trust. She is an avid fly-fisherman, rides hunters and jumpers and shares an interest with her husband, Peter, and stepson, Pierre, in several steeplechasers.

Douglas Less photo.



Patricia B. Manigault



Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom at Bath County.

Two Collections of Sporting Books Donated

The National Sporting Library recently received two important collections of sporting books.

Mrs. M. Tyson Gilpin, of Boyce, donated her late husband's library consisting of approximately 200 books. Thoroughbred breeding and racing books comprise the majority of the donation. Most are contemporary with a few real treasures, some signed by the author. An autographed first edition of William Faulkner's *Notes on a Horse Thief* (1950) is among the rare gems.

A number of foxhunting and steeplechase books are included along with a scarce set of J. Blan Van Urk's two-volume *The Story of American Foxhunting* (1940).

Gilpin's father, Kenneth Gilpin, started the collection to which Tyson added over the years.

Gilpin, a bloodstock agent, was active in the Thoroughbred sales industry. He was a partner in the renowned sales company, Fasig-Tipton, until he retired in 1952 to devote time to his family and Kentmere Farm in Boyce, his successful breeding farm.

The NSL also received 64 books from the estate of Marsyl Hammond, a Thoroughbred owner and breeder who lived in Culpeper County. The books date from 1809 to 2000 covering mostly Thoroughbred racing. One special item is *Lett's Popular County Atlas* (1887), an atlas of all Britain's counties.

Got Scrapbooks? Got Photos?

The NSL is home to a wonderful collection of books, but it is also home for sporting archives and manuscripts. This special collection consists of scrapbooks, original manuscripts (both published and unpublished), original artwork which illustrate books on our shelves, photographs, hunt and fishing diaries, maps, films, and other sporting ephemera.

Librarian Robert Weber has underway a number of projects, primarily handled by volunteers, to organize and preserve this important material.

The archival collection is an important source of the history of sport in America. The NSL has scrapbooks from Gerald Webb, the first publisher of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, hunt diaries kept by Treweryn huntsman David "Bun" Sharp, boxes of material that belonged to

important sporting authors Harry Worcester Smith, Alexander Mackay-Smith and Peter Winants. The Daniels Collection has original artwork by Henry Alken, Paul Brown, manuscripts by Theodore Roosevelt, Edith C.E. Somerville and Martin Ross to name a few.

To continue the tradition of preserving the culture of turf and field sports, enthusiasts should consider the NSL a repository for their heirloom collections of similar material, which will be preserved under ideal conditions and made available to researchers for years to come. For information and to volunteer, please call Robert Weber at 540-687-6542, ext. 14, or email at ns1@ns1.org.

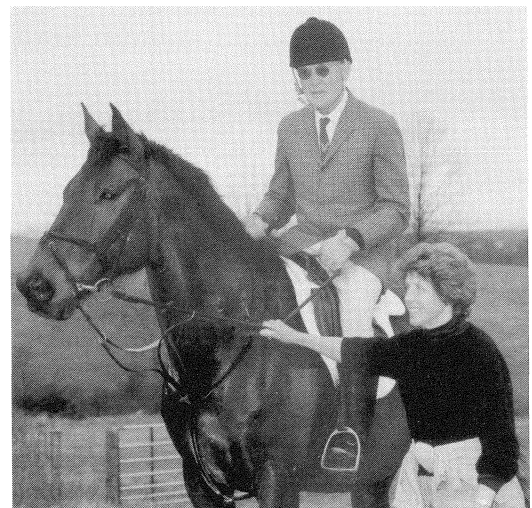
Congratulations!

Peter Winants, of Middleburg, and Mary Weeden, of The Plains, were married in Rectortown, Va., on May 17, in a private ceremony.

Mrs. Winants, formerly of Peapack, N.J., is a foxhunter and was district commissioner of the Amwell Valley Pony Club (N.J.).

Mr. Winants is NSL director emeritus and on the NSL board of directors. He is field master for Bath County Hounds and rides his Touch of Harry in point-to-points.

Mr. and Mrs. Winants will reside in Rectortown, Va.



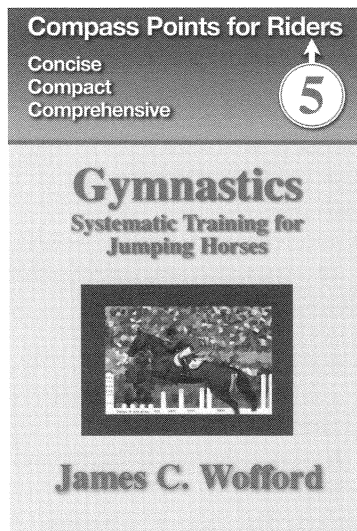
Douglas Less photo.

Gymnastics: Systematic Training for Jumping Horses

Gymnastics: Systematic Training for Jumping Horses. By James C. Wofford. 2001 Distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, N. Pomfret, VT 05053. Illus. 131 pp. Bibliography. \$13.95.

James C. Wofford's *Gymnastics: Systematic Training for Jumping Horses* is a "cut-to-the-chase" book. Riders seeking a manual to train a horse over jumps for eventing, show jumpers or the hunt field will find in *Gymnastics* the means to prepare a self-sufficient partner in sport.

Wofford is a popular trainer and coach. For over 25 years, he has instructed event riders in gymnastic jumping on his farm in Upperville, Va., and at clinics around the country. He was an anchor member of the U.S. Equestrian Team on the three-day squad from 1965 to 1985. Over two decades he was named to four Olympic teams, winning team silver



medals in 1968 and 1972, and the individual silver medal at the 1980 Alternate Olympics.

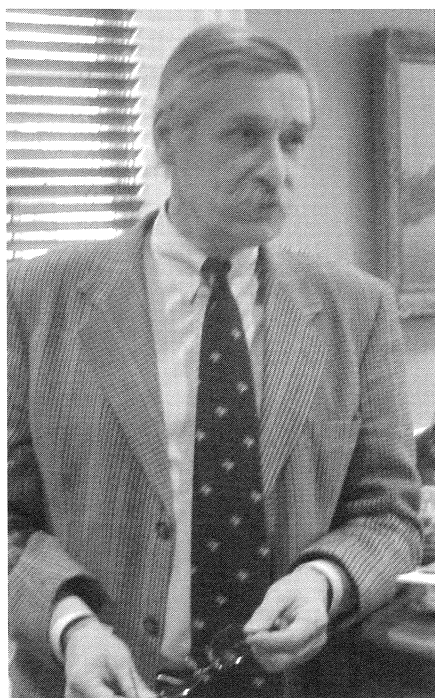
In his previous book *Training the Three-Day Event Horse and Rider* (1995), the final chapter touches on gymnastic training. This new book focuses on gymnastic jumping in

depth. His explanations are succinct and he utilizes diagrams for each of 23 exercises. Wofford's experience as a coach and rider is evident on each page. For instance, in "Beginning Gymnastics" he writes: "Your goals are for your horse to maintain his rhythm, balance and regularity of stride over obstacles. I think that we should teach our horse to balance himself, not to expect us to balance him."

In his opening chapter "The Horse" Wofford writes: "My ideal horse is the horse that I fall in love with again every morning when I see his face hanging over the stable door.... If you do not like a horse the first time you see him, do not talk yourself into buying him. You will always be secretly unhappy with him, and you won't make the necessary excuses for his inevitable mistakes during the training process."

—Lisa Campbell

Special Visitor to NSL



Pierre-Marc Malhet.

In May, Pierre-Marc Malhet, Délégué Général - Association Française de Vénérerie, and Robert Carroll, a member of Myopia Hunt (N.Y.), visited the NSL. Malhet's position is similar to the executive director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association; he serves as a diplomat of hunting.

At home in France, Malhet hunts stag through the forests of Fontainebleau. Carroll, who has joined him in stag hunting, had invited Malhet to hunt with Myopia. Malhet is also a champion French hunting horn blower and delighted the NSL staff with a few hunting melodies. He explained there are different melodies for each phase of the hunt. Malhet and Carroll were in Virginia to foxchase with Blue Ridge Hunt.



Pierre-Marc Malhet, the champion French hunting horn blower.

"Horse sense" is the quality that keeps horses from betting on people.

—W.C. Fields

The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council:

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Bill H. Gunn	Mr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter Jr.	

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Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Weekends by appointment



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